

DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF DIPTERA  
FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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(Communicated by Arthur M. Lea.)

PHYTOMYZA BETÆ, n.sp.

Yellow, an ocellar dot, upper half of occiput except along the margin, mesonotum except lateral margins and hind angles, a spot on each side of the scutellum, the metanotum and abdomen except sides and hind margins of the segments of the latter, blackish-brown, tibiae yellowish-brown, tarsi dark brown, antennal arista and hairs and bristles of entire insect black; mesonotum polished, destitute of short, bristly hairs except in front of the suture, bearing three pairs of dorsocentral bristles, the anterior pair shortest and situated slightly in front of the suture; wings greyish-hyaline, hind cross-vein wanting. Length 1 mm.

*Hab.*—West Australia: three specimens bred by Mr. Arthur M. Lea, from larvæ mining the leaves of the beet.

Closely related to the European *flavoscutellata*, but the latter is twice as large, has the third antennal joint black, mesonotum opaque, grey-pruinose and bearing four pairs of dorsocentral bristles, etc. This is the only species of *Phytomyza* known to me to attack the beet. It is very probable, however, that it originally fed upon some other plant, one that is indigenous to Australia.\* No species of this genus was described from Australia by the older authors, nor is any species of *Phytomyza*

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\* This surmise is quite correct, as I have reared it from several poisonous plants of the genus *Anthocercis*; and in Tasmania from both beet and mangels.—A.M.L.

mentioned by Van der Wulp in his recent Catalogue of the Diptera of South Asia.

MYIOPHASIA FLAVA, n.sp.

Yellow, the hairs and bristles chiefly black, a medio-dorsal brown vitta on the abdomen; eyes of male separated about the width of the lowest ocellus, antennæ reaching five-sixths of distance to the oral margin, the third joint slightly more than thrice as long as the second, the lower front corner produced in the form of a blunt tooth, arista thickened on the basal two-fifths; mesonotum somewhat polished, marked with five grey pruinose vittæ, three pairs of postsutural dorsocentral macrochætæ, two marginal pairs on the scutellum, sternopleura bearing two macrochætæ, abdomen subopaque, bearing only marginal macrochætæ; wings hyaline, third vein bristly about half-way to the small cross-vein, hind cross-vein nearer to the latter than to bend of fourth vein, first posterior cell petiolate, the petiole about half as long as the hind cross-vein. Length 5 mm.

*Hab.*—West Australia; two males bred from adults of the Scarabæid, *Anoplostethus opalinus*, Burm.

Although aberrant in its colouring, this interesting species possesses practically all the structural characters of the type species of the genus *Myiophasia*; the two heretofore known species of this genus likewise prey upon beetles. There is a strong probability that the present species is congeneric with *Neophasia picta*, Brauer and Bergenstamm, founded on a female specimen, without antennæ, from West Australia; this latter generic term, however, cannot stand, since there is a much earlier use of the same name by Dr. Behr for a genus of butterflies.